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Market Crisis Takes Toll On AUC Schools, Students

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The recent crisis in the U.S. economy is pushing Morehouse and the AUC at large to follow the first rule of investment: diversify.

Although the employment and consumer spending rates have been making their way down the economic charts since last year's fourth quarter, telltale signs of a recession-particularly the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers and the sale of Merrill Lynch to Bank of America-have sent students scrambling to secure their future while school administrators search for new philanthropic partners.

"A lot of guys are nervous about the instability," Calvin Nash said, a Senior Accounting major from Hempstead, N.Y. "A few years ago, it seemed like investment banking was the way to go. Now, people are looking into other areas."

Nash has first-hand knowledge of how macroeconomic occurrences can have micro-level

effects. He interned at Lehman for two consecutive summers and had an offer to work there full-time upon his graduation in May 2009. "I worked really hard to get that offer and it's a little disheartening to come back to school and it's basically gone," he said.

Morehouse is known as being a well-traveled avenue to Wall Street. Each year, recruiters from investment banking firms come in droves to attract top talent and interview students for summer and full-time positions.

"In a way investment banking is easy for us because so many banks come recruiting, it's the default," Keith Hollingsworth, Chairman of the Business Administration Department at Morehouse, said.

Reciprocally, students like the Street's corporate courtship and eagerly suit-up to woo recruiters every fall. Students are attracted by the prospect of returning to campus after an internship that netted them several thousand dollars or starting their career with one of the highest paying entry-level jobs that one can get



Image: Matt Jones

The now-defunct Lehman Brothers sponsored a facility at Spelman College

with only a Bachelor's degree.

"People get lured by the hype, the money, and the sexiness of it," Hollingsworth said. Approximately 30 percent of Morehouse Business students graduated and headed straight to Wall Street last year, according to departmental statistics.

As a result of this longstanding partnership, the Morehouse community is especially sensitive to the nation's financial climate.

Director of Career Services for the Division of Business Administration and Economics Douglass Cooper does not think that students are facing what could accurately be called a crisis quite yet. "Students as investors have to recognize that although this is a significant event, this is a part of the cycle of financial phenomenon," he said.

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Obama Regains Narrow Lead Following Economic Downturn

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During the week after the GOP Convention, Democrats nationwide were panicking as polls showed John McCain surging to a lead over Barack Obama. Those worries faded a bit on Monday, Sept. 15, when new polls showed Obama regaining his narrow summer-long lead over the Republican nominee.

According to the Gallup daily tracking poll, Obama's numbers started rising last Monday, the same day that Lehman Brothers announced they were going bankrupt. His lead increased in stages, first with a two-point advantage on Wednesday, followed by a four-point lead on Thursday and a six-point lead on Saturday. Although pollsters are not certain that the country's dire financial situation caused Obama's rebound, his numbers did increase as the market crisis worsened.

Naturally, both candidates peaked after their respective conventions, but Obama's record setting lead of 10 points actually took place in July, after his trip to Europe and the Middle East.

McCain's highest lead has only been by six points, and said lead took place in early May.

Despite the roller coaster poll trends, Obama supporters in the AUC remain optimistic about the Illinois senator's chances, blaming McCain's temporary lead on the Republican National Convention and Sarah Palin's popularity.

Junior business major Matthew Temba said, "People are beginning to realize the immediate importance of a president with sound economic policies. Furthermore, McCain's popular vote poll lead following the RNC was simply riding VP candidate Palin's media wave. In my humble opinion, the polls will move with media coverage, and Obama is waiting to peak on Nov. 4."

Patrick Bates, a senior physics major agreed, saying, "Obama can definitely pull it off. He doesn't have to pull any media gigs or anything either; it's obvious that the only reason McCain was leading was because of the RNC and Sarah Palin's recent coverage."

McCain and Obama will take to the stage Friday night for the first debate of several between the two candidates. The VP candidates debate on October 2.

Students Register Voters in the West End

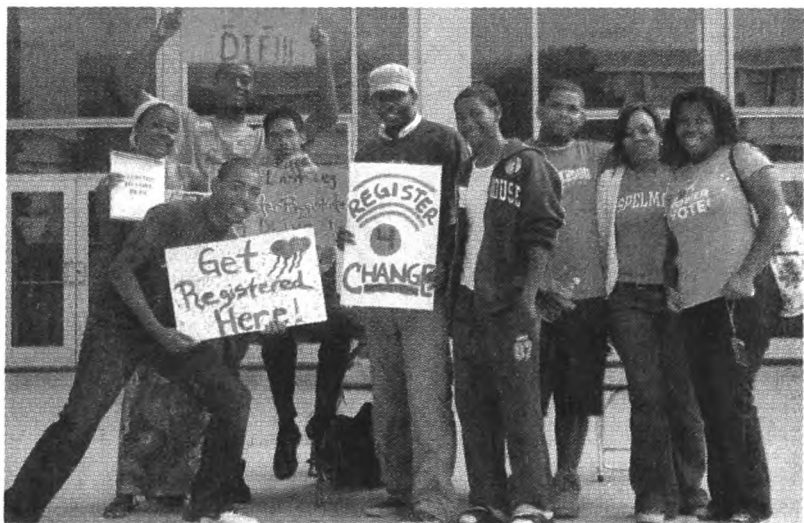


Image: Staff

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Last weekend, a group of AUC students set out on a mission to register West End community residents to vote. Although officially non-partisan, many of the students were Barack Obama supporters hoping that an increase in new registrants would allow Obama to pull off an upset victory in the traditionally Republican state of Georgia.

Morehouse students Donovan Ramsey, Chester Barboza, Shannon Hardin and David Law organized the "Last Leg" initiative on Saturday in an effort to get as many people as possible registered to vote by Georgia's Oct. 6 deadline.

With the Nov. 4 general election only a few weeks away, the intensity of the race is picking up. A Real Clear Politics poll has Barack Obama ahead 47.6% to John McCain's 45.4% nationally. However, Senator

Obama only holds a slim eight vote Electoral College lead over Senator McCain.

Network political analysts have pointed out the very real possibility of a repeat of the 2000 presidential election, with Obama winning the popular vote, but losing the electoral college. Amidst what could be the closest and most historic race in American history, "The Last Leg" was conceived by students to incorporate more people into the decision process.

Ramsey, a senior psychology major, remarked, "Efforts like this are critical, especially in the AUC. With the rich history of social involvement from past AUC students, we would be remiss to not pick up that mantle in these challenging times."

Student participants considered the activity the passing of a torch because forty years ago, students from the AUC were taking to the streets and demanding civil rights.

Last weekend, students went knocking door-to-door, stood outside the West End Mall and traveled around the Five Points area to register underrepresented Georgians. Students say that their efforts were generally well-received, as they were able to register over 100 new voters. However, there were those in the community who said they would not vote, often citing various conspiracy theories or ambivalence, with one woman saying, "I don't vote because they don't get counted."

More than 2 million new voters have registered as Democrats in the 28 states that identify voters by party affiliation, while Republicans have lost 344,000 voters during the same period. Nationwide there are about 42 million registered Democrats and 31 million Republicans. Georgia alone has added 337,000 new voters since 2006, but does not identify them by party affiliation. Ironically, Democrats may have the protracted battle between Clinton and Obama to thank for their registration gains.

Democrats now have a substantial registration advantage over Republicans and as a result, some states are in play that would normally be safely in the Republican column. Georgia is one of those states. With former Georgia Congressman Bob Barr on the ballot and record youth

"Last Leg" continues on page 2

Big Road Victory Gives Tigers 3-1 Record

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The Maroon Tigers of Morehouse College won handily against the Golden Bears of Miles College, defeating the Alabama team 27-7 last Saturday. After what appeared to be a close game during the first two quarters, the Tigers buckled down and took care of business.

The Tigers went into Saturday night's game with a 2-1 record. With a hard week of practice, the team was looking forward to traveling to and from Fairfield, AL with victory on their minds. Not only did the Tigers win by a significant margin, but the defense looked great.

"I think we played great defensively," Head Coach Rich Freeman said. "We were very sporadic. We came out with our third victory of the season. They had a good team, but I'm more concerned with our team than any other. We are our worst enemy and must work to get on one accord."

The offense had a hard time putting points on the board in the first half. Quarterback Christian Sterling only threw for 61 yards and the team rushed for a total of 31 yards in the first half.

"We have to get in shape," Freeman said. "We are out of sink offensively right now. Christian didn't have a good day. He's a much better quarterback. We have to run the football a little more. We had three turnovers, one interception and two fumbles."



Image: Mark Williams

Despite the offense's poor performance in the first half, the defense remained consistent throughout the entire game, led by the brilliant play of senior line backer Jeffery Cargile. Cargile led the ferocious defense with 10 total tackles and three sacks.

"Jeffery Cargile came into the regular season as a preseason all American and he is putting up great numbers right now," Freeman said.

Cargile was not the only star of Saturday night's game. Sophomore wide receiver Jamar Rodriguez led the team with 158 all purpose yards and one touchdown. His stellar play enabled the Tigers to grab the win. His play on special teams and offense was outstanding. Rodriguez is continuing his excellent performance on offense after being named the SIAC newcomer of the week on Sept. 16 for his remarkable performance against the Lane dragons, where he amassed 150 yards of offense.

With Rodriguez's great performance against Miles College, a team that started the season 0-2, it is unusual that Sterling didn't have a better game. However, coach Freeman sees great potential in his quarterback.

"Christian is a great athlete," Freeman said. "One of the better talents I've coached. He is working hard toward getting better and being a leader."

Coach Freeman and his players are very pleased with their start to the regular season. A tough training camp has enabled the team to begin the season on the right foot.

"Being 3-1 is a lot better than being 0-4," junior linebacker Keith Rooks said. "We are blessed. The situation could be worse."

Rooks is pleased with his team's performance right now, but also feels there is room for improvement.

"We are only going to get

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The Maroon Tiger

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Pakistan Bombing Kills 53



Image: AP

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On Sunday morning in Islamabad, Pakistan, rescuers were still pulling bodies from the shell of what used to be the Marriott Hotel. The death toll from the truck bombing has been pushed to 53, making it one of the worst terrorist attacks in the country's history. Amongst the 53 deaths include Czech Ambassador Ivo Zedek and 2 Americans.

As rescuers continued their efforts, the building, bombed on Saturday, continued to smolder; the fire raged on for hours after the bombing.

It was close to 8 p.m. on Saturday when the bomb went off. The hotel was packed with patrons, including Muslims who were taking the opportunity to break their daily fast during the holy month of Ramadan. At this point, there have been no identifications as to who is responsible for the bombing that has left more than 50 dead and over 250 wounded. Although there are no sure identifications as yet, there is certainly a lot of

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The 2008 Spring Elections saw the election of a dark horse candidate for president. Chad Mance, a senior Business Administration major, was carried to a decided victory by a student body that was overwhelmingly dissatisfied with the bureaucracy and pageantry of the Morehouse Student Government Association. They chose, instead, the promise of "perforMANCE"—the Mance campaign slogan.

The Mance Administration has promised to reorient the SGA back to student advocacy. "Student advocacy," says Mance "is the ability to address all pertinent student concerns." Wishing not to repeat mistakes of past SGA administrations that suffered from "a lack of focus," the Mance administration plans to prioritize student concerns and then address them accordingly. In order to properly gauge student concerns Mance says his administration needed to build an effective organization.

Mance bluntly expressed his disappointment in the organization his administration has inherited. Malfunctioning computers and printers in the SGA office compounded the problem posed by the lack of institutional memory of the SGA, an issue that was exhausted by candidates for Recording Secretary in the 2007 Spring Elections.

While building the institutional memory of the SGA, the Office of Secretaries (one of four offices including the Office of Execution, Office of Treasury and Office of Advocacy) will oversee the SGA website

through the Webmaster's Department. The SGA website will provide a medium through which members of the student body can post, blog and discuss their concerns.

The Webmaster's Department is one of about 19 departments that are housed within the four offices of the Mance administration's new organization. "I know it's expansive, but I want every student to be involved." The mapping out and building of this organization has resulted in a slow start to the beginning of this year for the SGA. Mance explains the slow start as a result of the decision he made over the summer to allow every member of the student body a chance to apply for positions within the administration rather than the more expedient process of appointment.

Much of the effort of the SGA has been directed towards the realization of the organizational vision of Mance. However, Mance and other officials say there are tangible results that members of the student body can look to as results of recent student advocacy focused initiatives.

Junior Board of Trustee Garrett Auzenne, a sophomore Economics major, is worried that while "CASA is very apparent, SGA has gone unnoticed behind the scenes." Auzenne points to two SGA led initiatives that occurred during the 2008 New Student Orientation.

Auzenne, along with Senior Board of Trustee Adam McFarland, a junior Biology major, and Brandon Douglas, a senior Business Administration major, led an initiative to preserve the traditional Morehouse College

and Spelman College brother-sister exchange; the annual tradition was in threat of being canceled by members of the Spelman College community.

In a similar effort to develop unity within the AUC, Auzenne oversaw a new addition to the annual Olive Branch ceremonies; at the end of the program Morehouse students and male students of Clark Atlanta University were kept behind to symbolically sign a contract of agreement to foster mutual respect.

Mance, also pointing to what he calls tangible results, notes that important decisions are being made regarding the SGA budget.

"We don't want to go out and spend all of our money on SGA polos," said Mance of the SGA budget, which is allocated by the Office of Student Services through the collection of student fees. The decision was made by Mance and his administration not to renew the campus subscription to "The Wall Street Journal" and "The New York Times" because the projected cost was about \$13,000; according to Mance, that would be over 25 percent of the SGA budget. The Office of Academic Affairs is being sought out by Mance for financial support to fund initiatives such as the campus subscriptions to the "The Wall Street Journal" and "The New York Times."

The ongoing voter registration drive, led by the SGA and the AUC organization Students for Barack Obama, will continue to be a primary concern promises Mance. According to Assistant Executive Director Najee Johnson, a junior Economics major, "about 100

students have been registered thus far."

After meticulous planning by his administration, Mance feels confident to now move forward and actively address the needs of the student body. Plans are being made for initiatives that include the administering of practice LSATs and GREs, financial literacy sessions for the President's Council with the Treasurer, and residential hall walk-throughs.

According to Auzenne, as members of the SGA Executive Board, the Senior and Junior Board of Trustees will be doing their part to support Mance in his attempts to effectively gauge student concerns. Auzenne and McFarland plan to have customer service cards readily available to members of the student body and conduct student surveys. The information collected through those efforts will be used to better inform discussions with President Franklin.

In response to concerns about whether or not the organization his administration has built will be sustained by the next administration, Mance says discussions are being had about how to best make the organizational changes permanent yet flexible. He acknowledges that members of the student body may not fully understand the work his administration has done thus far this year.

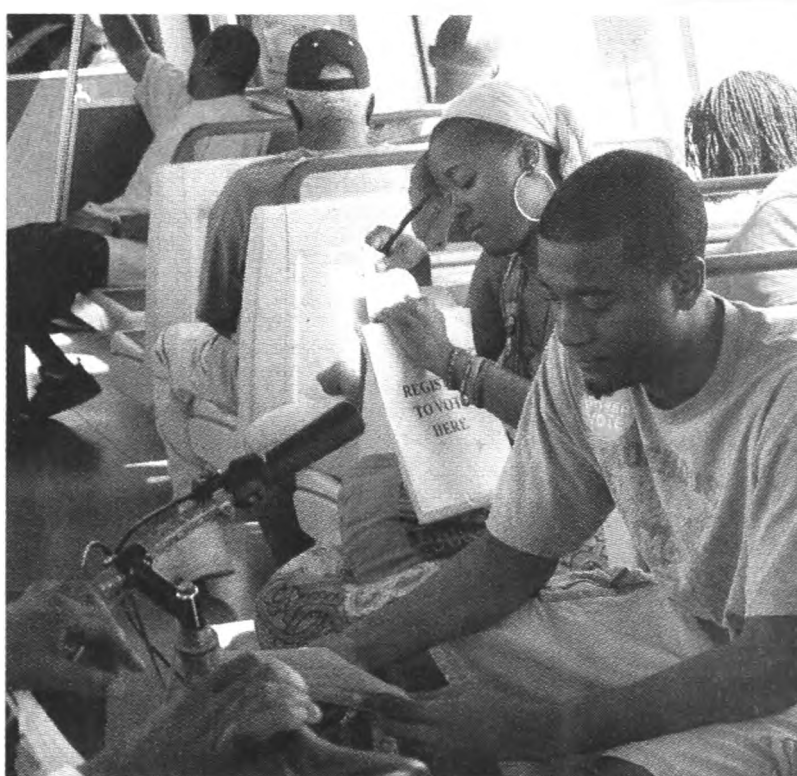
"In order to lay a foundation for somebody else you have to do the not-so-pretty," said Mance. And to those that question Mance's fulfillment of his promise of perforMANCE, he says of the newly organized SGA, "to me this is delivering."

LAST LEG

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and Black population turnout, some believe that Obama has a chance to win a state that has not voted for a Democratic since Bill Clinton narrowly won in 1992. However, even he had help from Ross Perot, who won 14% of the vote. John Kerry lost Georgia by 130,000 votes in 2004. There are by some estimates up to 600,000 unregistered African Americans in Georgia.

There are also felons who may not know that they are able to vote as long as they are not currently on parole or probation, and have paid all of their outstanding fees.



Images: Donovan Ramsey

Students travel on MARTA and march the streets to register new voters before the October 6 filing deadline.



Recycle The Maroon Tiger

Clark Atlanta University Loans 600+ Laptops to Freshman Class

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The incoming 2012 freshman class at Clark Atlanta University is gaining not only a college education, but brand new Dell laptops equipped with the market's latest software. CAU's First-Time/ First-Year Pilot Laptop Program was designed to strengthen the academic success of first year students attending the university.

The laptop distribution comes as a big surprise to students at CAU. Shona Shaw, a sophomore, views the initiative as a "shock because I didn't know the University could financially afford it, especially with the other urgent renovation issues that needs to be addressed on campus."

The financial implication of providing over 600 laptops to students is an interesting mystery among students.

According to administration however, the laptops were financed by a federally funded grant under the 1965 Higher Education Act. The Higher Education Act was legislation signed into law as part of President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society Agenda to "strengthen the educational resources at our colleges and universities."

In a statement issued by the University on its website, CAU said that the Laptop Pilot Program is a "student-services-and-outcomes-centered activity." The initiative of assigning laptops to students "gives the students the opportunity to enhance their academic performance and further his/her college experience beyond a traditional computer lab." Furthermore, this allows the University to "develop, implement, and monitor the effectiveness of undergraduate and graduate student retention plans."

Some students have had positive reactions. Clark Atlanta University freshman Janee Douglass said, "The laptop distribution will strengthen the academic success of students because it relives one of the stresses of having to travel to the library to do research for papers or check student email."

The Clark Atlanta University Laptop Loan Program was a complete secret to students. Many recipients of the laptops found the University actions of secrecy frustrating because they could have saved money spent on buying a laptop for school if they had known there would be laptops given out freely.

Douglas said, "I wish they would have told us ahead of



Image: Matt Jones

time because instead of using the money to buying a laptop, it could have been used [for] tuition." She added, "Since I already own a laptop, I just loaned it to an upperclassman who didn't own one."

There are restrictions for students if they obtain a laptop from the University. In the same statement issued on the University website, CAU said that "students will be held responsible for lost or stolen laptops." They added, "Failure to return the laptops when assigned will result in a student account being charged for the laptop replacement cost."

Jokingly, some students bragged about the 'hustle' they would make out of the school laptops. Freshman Ryan Boseman said she would charge

students to use her school issued laptop "since I already own one."

Students are wondering why the school took the initiative to give freshman students laptops, but not upperclassmen. Boseman said, "Since this is the first year the University is loaning laptops to students, it would be only fair if the university gave laptops to every student of all classes and then next school year they implement the first year laptop distribution program."

Despite the divide, Clark Atlanta students largely agree that the move is one step towards making CAU a more competitive campus amongst other institutions of higher education.

KKK 'Cold Case' Conviction Overturned

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An Indiana court has set free James Ford Seale, a former member of the Klu Klux Klan terrorist organization who was recently convicted of a 1960s civil rights murder.

43 years passed between the time of the murder and Seale's 2007 trial. Now, though, Seale has been cleared of kidnapping, assault, and murder charges in the case of Charles Moore and Henry Dee.

Seale, now 72 years old, was a crop-duster and deputy sheriff in his home state of Mississippi when the murders occurred.

According to Charles Edwards, who confessed in 2007 after being confronted by documentary filmmakers, the victims were hitchhiking on the night of May 2, 1964 when Seale allegedly picked them up.

Edwards alleged that Seale had mistakenly taken Moore and Dee for Black Muslims plotting an armed uprising. Seale had been "informed" of their presence earlier that day.

After picking up the two 19-year-olds, Seale allegedly took them to the banks of the Mississippi River, where he proceeded to beat them with beanpoles, interrogate them at gunpoint, and throw them in the river, according to Edwards.

Seale later lashed them to a Jeep engine block on iron weights, resulting in their deaths. Fishermen found the bodies were found two months later by fishermen.

Shortly after the discovery of the bodies, police arrested Seale and Edwards, but released both when Edwards claimed that the two hitchhikers were still alive when they left them.

Last year, in June of 2007, Edwards admitted what happened to Mississippi police.

Seale was consequently sentenced to three life sentences for kidnapping and conspiracy, which he immediately began serving.

Meanwhile, despite his admitted role in the abductions, Edwards received immunity to charges because of his confession and critical testimony at trial.

However, Seale's conviction was overturned on September 9 due to a long-standing law that abolished the death penalty for kidnapping and set a five-year time limit for prosecutions.

Defense attorneys successfully argued that the 43-year delay in trying Seale's case violated the law.

Prosecutors are preparing an appeal in Indiana, where Seale is currently being treated for several health problems including cancer.

Market Woes Hit Home

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Cooper pointed out that if a company has to cut costs, it would most likely cut middle management positions and not entry-level spots because of the higher salaries.

Furthermore, the department sees additional benefits. "In some ways it's a good thing because it gets students to get out of the narrow mindset that investment banking is the only way to use your degree," Hollingsworth said.

The department has used the occasion to accelerate the process of getting a more diverse group of corporate recruiters on campus, according to Hollingsworth. Students are expected to engage more with an increased presence of firms specializing in consulting, marketing and advertising, and even sports management.

Investment banks are major donors at Morehouse

Lehman's absence will also be felt in the school's bank accounts and operational activities. "The recruiting pipeline and the fundraising pipeline are tied," Phillip Howard, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, an administrator who is largely responsible in fundraising at Morehouse College said.

"If they are not recruiting anymore then that affects their philanthropy," he said about the large investment banks. Howard is watching the economy closely and creating strategies to cope. "It will force us to expand the number of corporate entities that we pursue for support." However, he said, it is too early to be sure how things will work out.

Last year, Lehman contributed 7,500 dollars in scholarships to Morehouse and sponsored the school's investment club with a 10,000 dollar contribution to the winner of the investment club's

stock pick challenge. Additionally, Lehman consistently sent speakers and devoted other resources to the department.

Across the street at Spelman, however, is where Lehman's philanthropy is jeopardized the most. The two institutions announced the 10 million dollar partnership in the fall of 2007 to create the Lehman Brothers Center for Global Finance and Economic Development. The commitment was the biggest kind that Lehman had ever made with a plan to have the contribution paid off over five years. The grant was to fund curriculum development, scholarships, the hiring of faculty, and various programmatic initiatives.

When contacted about the current status of the partnership, Spelman released a statement saying, "So far, we have been able to add Chinese to our curriculum, create new office space and video conferencing capability, and recruit a new leader for our global finance and economic development initiative." It remains unclear whether or not Spelman will receive the full amount of the donation. However, Terrilyn Simmons, a Spelman spokesperson did say that they expect to continue to develop the program.

But that comes with certain difficulties. "The burden on Spelman is that it is going to be a lot harder to maintain the momentum and keep going with their plans," Hollingsworth said. "Even if they get the money there is just not as much of a driving force as there once was."

Full service banks stronger in weak economy

Students still interested in the financial sector can look towards full service banks for greater stability.

Banks that have other sources of income from other types of banking activity have the means

to soften the blows of the market and the available capital when there is not a lot of liquidity in the markets.

"There is a new paradigm shift in financial services," David Ferguson said, class of '81 and Managing Director of Syndicated Finance-Sales for Bank of America. Only two mono-line banks are still standing: Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. "People will need to finance transactions and people will need to raise capital," he said. "It just so happened that those functions will be performed by institutions that don't look like they use to look in years past." Successful banks will be providing a wide range of services and reduction their specialization, according to Ferguson, who has worked in banking for 25 years.

As a stronger player in the financial services industry, Bank of America plans to expand its talent pool across the board into other areas of financial services. "For the first time this year we will be recruiting on the campus aggressively for areas other than investment banking," Ferguson said.

However, he warned that the playing field will be more competitive as a result. "Only the top players will be able to participate because there are fewer seats."

Students can claim a temporary seat, at the least, with Bank of America on Wednesday Sept. 24 in the leadership building's Executive Conference Center.

Hollingsworth hopes that business students are following the developments closely and will apply the lessons of the market to their personal lives.

"You always have to diversify your investments, you always have to diversify your base," Hollingsworth said. "If you get too focused, you are too susceptible to a change in the economy."

O.J. Simpson Faces More Charges

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O.J. Simpson will take the stand again for the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia in a Las Vegas hotel room. Simpson is charged with two counts of robbery with a deadly weapon, two counts of assault with a deadly weapon, one count of conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary with a firearm, felony kidnapping, coercion and other charges.

The penalty for the alleged crimes may fall anywhere between three years in prison to life. Simpson, along with long-time friend and co-defendant, Clarence "C.J." Stewart, have each pleaded not guilty to the 12 charges. A robbery conviction would mean mandatory prison time and felony kidnapping carries the possibility of life in prison with the possibility of parole for the former Heisman Trophy winner.

Jury selection proved to be a hurdle due to the notoriety of Simpson's first encounter with the law. Many jurors still vividly remember his high-speed police chase and the double-homicide trial that ensued for his 1994 alleged murders, charges for which he was acquitted. Some still feel a great deal of emotion because of the case and still remember their awe at the 1995 acquittal.

When Judge Jackie Glass asked how many of them knew of Simpson, hands shot in the air from most of the 87 panelists brought to the courtroom at the time. Jury selection began mid-August with 500 prospective jurors. Prospects were asked to fill out a 26-page questionnaire, and the opposing attorneys studied the answers to weed out extreme opinions. They were not questioned about their



Image: AP

knowledge of C.J. Stewart, who has been trying to have his case severed from Simpson's because of the perceived ill-effects of his celebrity.

This process ended in the selection of 12 white jurors. Judge Glass attempted to make sure that stigma stemming from Simpson's priors would not be a factor in the final decision of the current case, especially because the victims of the 1994 murders were also white.

"If you are here thinking you are going to punish Mr. Simpson for what happened in Los Angeles in 1995 this is not the case for you," Glass told prospective jurors. "I mean really, truly, folks, I'm not kidding around. Can you put that aside and understand that the case we are trying here and the information you're going to hear about here is totally separate from that case?"

Simpson claims that this ill-fated mission was an attempt to reclaim some of his personal property that was stolen from him. Police Lieutenant Clint Nichols described the allegedly stolen items.

"It included a lot of sports memorabilia and most of it had been signed by Mr. Simpson

himself along with some other property," said Nichols. "I believe there were some Joe Montana cleats, some signed baseballs and some other stuff."

Simpson also claims to have been unaware of the presence of guns and says that he did not ask anyone to bring them to the hotel. Simpson maintains his innocence and in an interview with the A.P. afterwards said, "Everybody knows this isn't stolen stuff. Not only wasn't there a break-in, but [the auction house owner] came to the lobby and escorted us up to the room."

In the reports, Simpson and a group of associates allegedly entered a room at the Palace Station Hotel-Casino while armed with firearms, to retrieve memorabilia largely related to the former football star's sporting career. Simpson has continued to insist that he did not know that anyone had guns and said he never saw weapons. Four of his companions, including the two who carried firearms, have taken the plea bargain route in order to reduce their prison sentences and have offered their testimony against Simpson as a medium for escape from full prosecution.



Features

The Brown Street Bench: *How to Tell if She's Really Interested*

Dr. J

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From the male point of view, women are too subtle and indirect – or just plain confusing – when revealing their romantic interest. And yes, women often send mixed messages because they're not sure of what's going on inside their own heads.

What most of us are looking for is a set of clear female signals that tell us when a girl is feeling us. So here's a short list of ways to tell if she's interested.

1. She's "in your face"

Suddenly, you'll become aware of her presence everywhere -- she "just happens" to show up wherever you hang out; you keep passing her on your way to class; she "accidentally" bumps into you at Jazzman's; she maneuvers to stand close to you at a club or sit next to you in class.

What she's doing is trying to get you to notice her and giving you an opportunity to make the first move. The problem with this is that a lot of guys are completely oblivious to it, consequently throwing away opportunity to hook up. Men are direct; women are indirect. So, next time a girl starts appearing regularly in your path, be aware that she's probably doing it on purpose.

2. She has all the right moves

A lot of people say that bodies can't lie. Nature has programmed humans with a complex set of non-verbal flirting signals that flow freely when people are interested in someone. These range from the widening of the iris when

looking at the object of desire to more overt displays such as smiling or touching.

Here are a few body-language cues to watch out for: She leans toward you while talking.

She plays with or tosses her hair.

She fidgets with a piece of jewelry (like an earring) or strokes the stem of her glass.

She keeps her eyes locked on you while she talks or drinks.

She mirrors your body movements.

She smiling when you check her out.

Become aware of these and you can almost be sure that she's giving you the green light for romance.

3. She's never too busy

This is a cardinal rule in the dating game: If a girl is interested in going out with you, she will make herself available. This means that she will give you her number, she will quickly answer or return your call and she will accept your invitation to get together. If she's busy on the day you specify, she will say something like, "Well, I can't this Saturday, but next Saturday would be fine, if that's OK."

You'll never hear from an interested girl things like, "I'm really busy right now," or "I don't know, let me see," or "I just got out of a bad relationship, so I'm all mixed up right now." Even if she's currently actively dating someone else, she will keep the lines of communication open with you for the possibility of future contact if she's interested of course.

4. She's curious about you

A girl who's interested in you

wants to know everything about you (so she can talk about you with her girlfriends). She will quiz you about your family, your background and your tastes in such things as food, music and movies. Very often, what she's doing is trying to catalog your interests so that she can mimic your likes and dislikes in order to bond with you -- if you're crazy about hot air ballooning, suddenly, she is too.

5. She "futures" you

An interested girl is wide open for any future plans with you. In fact, she will often say something like, "Oh... you like bowling, too? We should do that some time." When she's operating in this mode, make no mistake about it -- she wants you to ask her out.

6. She's on pins and needles

If she's really interested, she'll be as nervous as a cat around you, especially if you're clueless about reading her signals. Of course, she could be just a normally shy person, so watch how she interacts with others -- if she's only fidgety around you, she's probably thinking romance.

7. She's jealous of other women you talk to

She has the green-eyed monster on her back. An interested girl will watch her competition like a hawk (and with talons bared). So, if you notice her steaming just because you're joking around with other women, you can be sure that she wants you to be more than just her friend.

If a lot of these signals are coming your way, it's a pretty safe bet that you could score a date this weekend.

UFC®: Racial Disparities a Growing Phenomena

CHRISTIAN BRYANT

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"Yes we can! Yes we can!"

This was the chant echoing from the rafters of Philips Arena on Saturday, Sept. 5, at UFC 88: Breakthrough in Atlanta, GA. In the ninth and final fight of the evening, light heavyweight fan favorite Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell was knocked out cold by unanimous underdog, Rashad "Sugar" Evans. Fans around the arena were stunned and overcome with disappointment as they watched Liddell lay lifeless on the canvas.

It was one of the sport's greatest upsets, but in the midst of the calamity, there lay a deeper meaning. What seemed to be a progression in sports/entertainment also highlighted a regression in race relations within the sport.

Created in 1993, Ultimate Fighting Championship® (UFC®) is now a thriving professional mixed martial arts organization offering the premier series of mixed martial arts events. With influences dating back to the Olympic Games in Athens and the Brazilian form of martial arts

known as "Vale Tudo" (anything goes), UFC® has arguably replaced sports such as professional boxing and professional wrestling in popularity.

The goal of the UFC® is to find the ultimate champion through a tournament showcasing the best skilled athletes in the various martial arts disciplines, including: boxing, jiu-jitsu, karate, wrestling, sumo, etc.

The company has grown exponentially over the past 15 years, broadcasting 12 to 14 live Pay-Per-View events annually through cable and satellite providers in over 34 countries worldwide.

With comedian Joe Rogan, from "Fear Factor", serving as the host, and the biased President of UFC®, Dana White, trash-talking his own fighters, there's rarely a dull moment with the programming.

In an interview with "The Baltimore Sun" newspaper, White noted that although the majority of the viewers are males between the ages of 18-34, he plans on expanding the fan base.

"I'm going after other demographics . . . Hispanic and urban fans," White said.

Although the fact that

close to 90 percent of that age demographic is white male isn't mentioned, the disparity is hard to miss from sheer observation. But why is the UFC® viewing audience so one-sided?

Many logical reasons come to mind. While professional boxing, for example, appeals to a wide multicultural fan base, the UFC® attracts the upper-echelon viewer.

According to FanNation.com, the average price of a ticket is \$250 with Pay-Per-View pricing between \$45 and \$55. This sort of pricing reaches out to higher income viewers, which doesn't include a large number of Blacks or other minorities.

With mixed martial arts being a protean sport, training facilities that tailor to the needs of those skilled athletes are rarely found within inner cities. This can deter minorities from delving into a sport they don't know much about.

Regardless of the circumstances, emerging minority UFC® fighters such as Rashad Evans and the current middleweight champion, Anderson Silva, are sure to open up the fan base and bring in more minority and Black viewers.

'Do It For the Hood' Participants Reach Out to Young Communities

CARL RINGGOLD

Columnist
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Sound cliché? Well the "We do it for the Hood" movement is anything but another lackluster attempt to achieve street fame by claiming your actions are for the 'hood.'

Glen Pair and Joel Sejour are the co-founders of the "We do it for the Hood" movement. Two young men who are in their early twenties found it in their hearts to give back to their communities.

This movement has the potential to not only have a monumental impact on the AUC, but urban communities around the globe. The idea is to unite the AUC, which is truly divided, by having students embrace the concept of community service and thus come together.

Due to its very diverse population, the AUC was the most attractive place to launch this movement.

When asked what this movement stood for Pair

replied, "The mission is to promote brotherhood, sisterhood, livelihood and to take it to the neighborhood. I would really like to see more AUC students get out and have a bigger impact. I feel the AUC would have the biggest impact in Atlanta and abroad because most of the people who go to school aren't from here."

The movement entails seven pillars that the leaders try to express to high school and middle school students. Those pillars include: Leadership, Self-Esteem, Etiquette, Conflict Resolution, College Prep, Entrepreneurship and Health Awareness.

Melvin Freeman, who worked closely with Glen last year in some of Atlanta's worse high schools, said, "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care. That is the philosophy I take into these tutoring sessions." When asked what his experiences were last year working with these students he reflected on one particular instance. "I

remember one young girl who said to me, why do I need to learn this. I'm going to end up stripping anyway." In distress Freeman put his head down and asked, "What do you say to that?"

Perhaps there is a woman at Clark or Spelman that has the answer? Perhaps there is a man at Clark or Morehouse that has a word for that young brother who wants to sell drugs instead of go to school.

It is imperative; however, that he or she presents himself or herself.

Students wishing to participate in the movement to help young Atlantans in underserved communities can go to King Chapel on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.

Want to work for The Maroon Tiger?

Meetings take place every
Thursday @ 6 p.m.

Contact us for the location

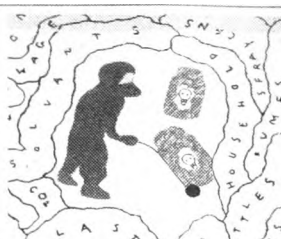
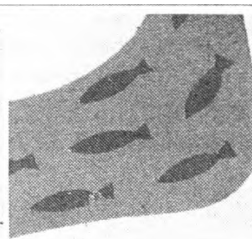
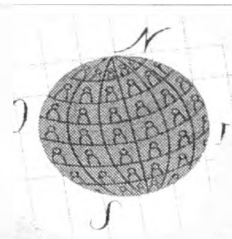
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Recycle The Maroon Tiger

Opinions

Where Are They Now? Alumni Profiles

RANDOL DAVIS

Associate News Editor
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Herman Cain, current resident of Atlanta, Georgia, graduated from Morehouse in 1967 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics. After graduation from 'The House,' Cain went on to gain a Master's degree in Computer Science from Purdue University in 1971.

After serving as the CEO and/or President of several boards and associations, Cain entered the political media world as a FOX News Business Commentator and a North Star Writers Syndicated Columnist.

During his leadership and commentary/journalism experience, he wrote four books "Leadership Is Common Sense" (1997), "Speak As A Leader" (1999), "CEO of SELF" (October, 2001) and "They Think You're Stupid" (May, 2005).

If you are still unfamiliar with the name "Herman Cain," then just turn on the radio. Cain has his own Atlanta based radio show entitled "The Herman Cain Show" that airs Monday through Friday from 7p.m. to 10p.m. on 750AM WSB.

Known for his conservative ideals, Cain bases his radio show and opinion columns on republican archetypes and standards.

In one of his most recent

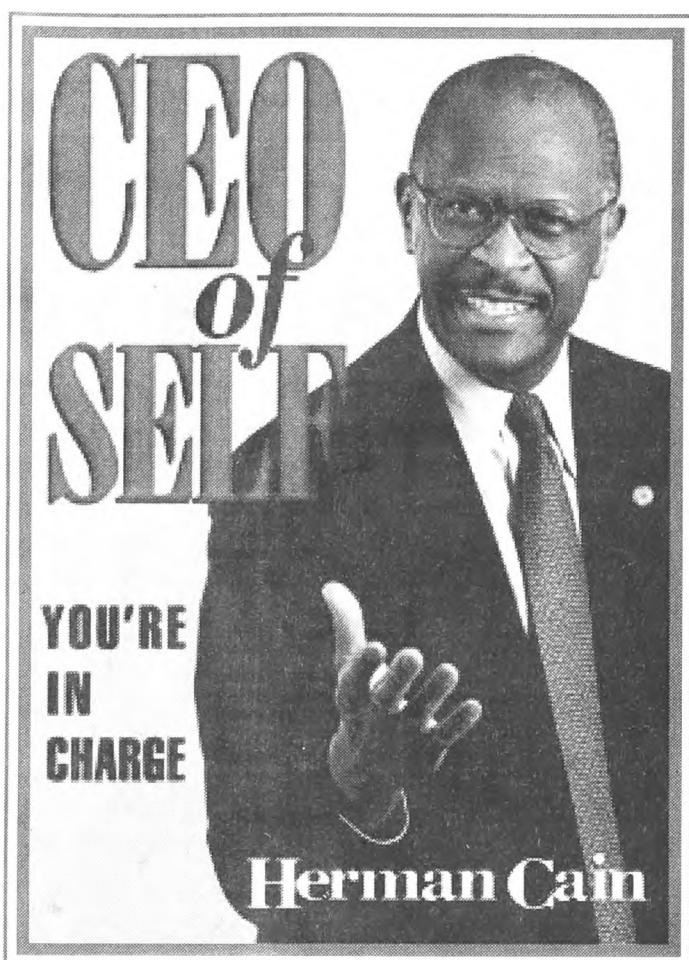
pieces, Cain said, "While the Democrats had their week of unchallenged propaganda about their party - how perfect it is and how terrible the Republicans are - the latest good news about the economy and the average adjusted gross income went unnoticed.

Once again, when Democrats don't like the facts, they just ignore them with the help of the mainstream media.

Cain's remarks similar to these keep him apart of the mainstream talk show scene.

Cain heeds to each Man of Morehouse, "That each Morehouse man to find the Renaissance man within himself. With that he will succeed."

Cain is currently married to a wife of 40 years and has two children and two grandchildren.



2 Cents: Commentary From Student Readers

"Something about this really annoys me: contestants who sing gospel songs in pageants. I feel like this is inherently unfair...if you're an awesome singer, you're even more awesome because you "raised up the spirit." If you are a mediocre or lackluster singer, no one will boo you...! It's a safe way to avoid failure...and it ain't fair!"

"It isn't. It really isn't. Spelman women would never come to Morehouse and act like fools the way some Morehouse men did last week. The language was one thing, but those references were another. There is 'nothing up' with my female parts, so don't play that song. And don't talk about blogs that affected multiple people in that very room, even those onstage."

WANT TO SUBMIT YOUR 2 CENTS?

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-Must be something worth saying

-Although submissions may be printed anonymously, name and email must be included with submission.

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Recycle The Maroon Tiger

Opinions

In Defense of Affirmative Action

ASHLEY HARRIS
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Everyone wants to criticize our generation as having a “lack of political activism.” Are we the ones who lack political activism, because there was a definite lack of political activism in our black community when the Supreme Court ruled against the University of Michigan’s system of awarding extra points to Black, Hispanic and Native American applicants for undergraduate admission. A better question: why didn’t minorities, especially Blacks, get up and strongly protest that 2003 ruling against affirmative action? After all, it took the denial of only a few Caucasian students to the University of Michigan to help set back minorities in this country. So the question of why we didn’t stand up for a proposal towards the betterment of our people is still yet to be answered. Too much pride? Maybe, because many minorities do not want to believe that they are being served a slice of pity’s pie or are made to feel that way by society. The truth is, stated by author John E. Farley, “that a major tactical error of affirmative action supporters

was relying so much on past discrimination to justify affirmative action.” Affirmative action was originally designed to create fair and equal opportunities for minorities against their white counterparts by giving minorities some priority when applying for employment or to institutions. Moreover, it is undeniable that there is unequal opportunity in American society for minorities. So affirmative action should not be viewed as a courtesy gift, rather a method to aid minorities to be truly competitive in America. So why not let all African Americans who are descendants of slaves, no matter what their current financial status, attend the first four years of college at the expense of the government? After all, it was the government that originally played a major role in creating the situation in which many minority families are still hoping at least one member obtains a college degree. These are just ideas that should have been argued in defense of affirmative action. One with good sense would not start a foot race and allow some opponents a 20-minute head start and then truly expect to have a fair chance. No. The delayed opponents

would have to run twice as fast, and most likely risk becoming burned out. A trailing individual cannot catch up to the pack if everything is equal. If all the runners ran at the same speed, the race would end exactly as it started. Also, I do understand that it may seem obsolete to stress the importance of affirmative action because we are a cluster of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. But HBCUs should not be exempt from what affirmative action promises. In fact, I strongly believe that HBCUs should receive more money from the government so that minority students with a thirst to learn and succeed do not have to turn down an opportunity of a lifetime and/or take out a series of ridiculous loans. Doing either will only stagger their attempt to enter society with respectable careers and goals. So in the time of history’s probably most historic presidential campaigns, I urge my fellow peers to never again sit mum on any issue, which may affect or limit our future roles, success, and voice within a society that is often biased against us.

THE MAROON TIGER

Edward Mitchell, '09
Editor-in-Chief

The Maroon Tiger is published weekly during the academic year at Morehouse College. Our goal is to maintain an independent editorial policy. Opinions expressed in The Maroon Tiger are solely the views of its staff and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Morehouse College, its administration, or The Maroon Tiger advisors. Commentaries solely represent the views of the author and are not necessarily the opinions of The Maroon Tiger. We believe all advertising to be correct but cannot guarantee its accuracy or be responsible for its outcome. The Maroon Tiger welcomes your views on any public issue. We routinely edit letters for space and correct errors in spelling and punctuation. Letters as well as commentaries must be 300 words or fewer, typed, signed, and should include a full address and telephone number.

Flies
Chicken and Fries

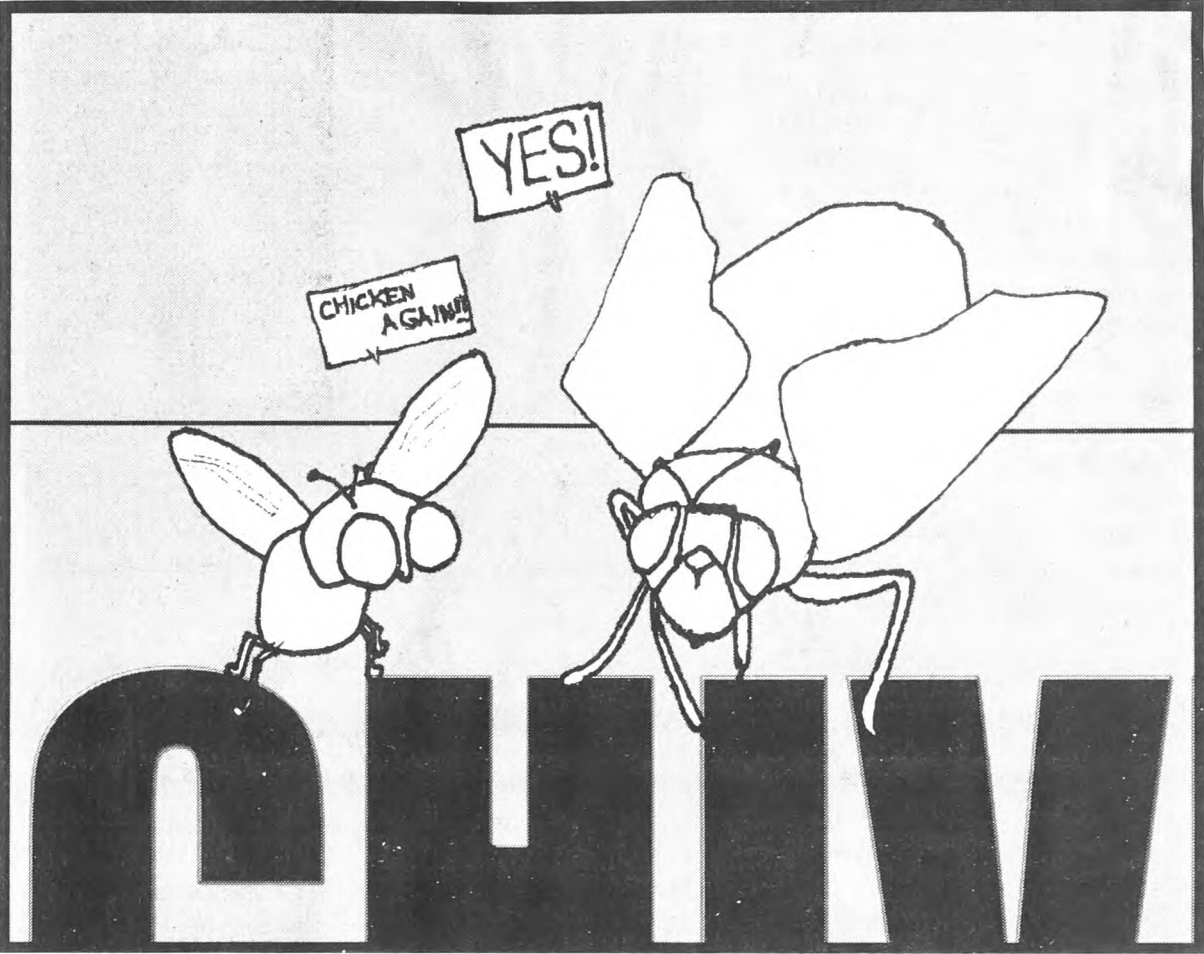


Image: Willie Williams

Sartorial is For Suckers

SCOTT MERCER
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To take a nod from style aficionado Andre Three Stacks, “Fly is the word, style stands on the corner above the curb.” What I’m trying to emphasize is the monumental difference from putting on the latest trends and fads for show versus investing style in one’s wardrobe and lifestyle. Here at Morehouse, our young men illustrate, on the yard, a hodgepodge collection of current trends in brands, companies and fads. Rarely however, does one ascend to an upper echelon of those fashionable mavens at creating a look that doesn’t merely copy that of the next

man sitting next to them in Gloster, a look that speaks to their true personality and more. To take it a step further, how many times have you stepped outside to realize that the majority of your brothers were, in essence, wearing the same ensemble? A fitted hat, dark-framed glasses, tongue-in-cheek graphic tee, and colorful kicks? Or maybe a collared shirt, skinny jeans, overpriced loafers, and a summer-knit sweater to complete the look? If clothing is supposed to speak to something about the wearer, how many of us are saying the same thing, mumbling the same lackluster words, “I am fly.” If anything, I could respect

the students who care less about sartorial conundrums because I’m apt to believe that the young man who appears before my eyes is not donning a façade in attempts to garner the attention of other unstylish people. I aim not to offend, nor to mock any of the young men who tip down Brown St. like the latest episode of Project Runway. You should only feel some kind of way if the description of the aforementioned men fit you. Whether you’re putting on that blazer you had tailored, grabbing that man-bag or backpack you snagged from Lenox, or lacing up those beast pair of kicks you bought at Stratosphere, be an individual. Be you.

20
Questions

BY: GORDON GECKKO
PageantsandWallStreet@GmcAwry.com

- 1) Do you realize how close we were to another Great Depression?
 - 2) Is it time to start crossing the border into Mexico?
 - 3) Why, oh why, would you bring up those blogs in front of them?
 - 4) Did you really see him the ENTIRE evening?
 - 5) Doesn’t that make the alcohol awareness event a little ironic?
 - 6) Did you really think you’d won?
 - 7) Is there now officially a difference between the man and the dawg?
 - 8) Is Morehouse one Crown Forum reference to Obama away from losing tax exempt status?
 - 9) Chad “Mace?” Really?
 - 10) Have you realized by now that there won’t be KAOS this year?
 - 12) Honestly, after last week, why are you still not registered to vote?!
 - 13) Is the top of the parking deck going to be your regular meeting place?
 - 14) Or will you con him into paying for a new spot?
 - 15) If we bring an L.O.R. from the chapel, can we go?
 - 16) Are you trying to be the black Rupert Murdoch or something?
 - 18) Since when did the cafeteria become Fort Knox?
 - 19) Is he an administrator or a comedian?
 - 20) Great as it would be, do you really believe he’s going to win Georgia?
 - 20) If so, would you like to buy my AIG stock at \$231 a share?
- BONUS:**
- 21) Did you enjoy the show?
 - 22) And how do you manage to be sooo overdramatic?

2009 Summer Undergraduate Intern Positions

ICPSR, the world's largest archive of digital social science data, is now accepting applications for its annual 10-week undergraduate summer internship program June 8–August 14, 2009. Who should apply: Social science majors who have completed their sophomore year; have strong academic credentials; and have some experience with SAS, SPSS, or Stata.



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The 54 ‘Les Miserables’ in Atlanta

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Morehouse College's own rock band, The 54, gave a show to remember at the East Atlanta Icehouse Thursday, Sept. 8.

An eclectic crowd gathered at the intimate venue on Flat Shoals Road to witness Enye, Mercury, Walter and Mike deliver an epic performance.

Judith Parham, a Spelman College senior, stood patiently outside anticipating what she knew would be a great concert. "They played a lot of cool music for me at their house once," Parham said. "I've never heard them play live, but I hear they're the business. Mike is sick on the drums."

When asked what to expect, guitarist Walter said, "Energy. It's our big thing." Enye, vocalist and guitarist added, "Something you've never heard before." "Nothing short of awesomeness." Expect no mercy," bass-player Mercury replied.

Making his way through the crowd who were casually sipping brew and subtly tapping their feet to the Rap/Hip-Hop/Alternative medley—including Kelis's "I'm Bossy" played over an antique Mary J. Blige beat—provided by the DJ, Michael Jones, The 54's drummer.

So what type of sound is expected from this group? Well there is no official answer to that question. Jointly, all members of the band answered that "[Their sound] is not a blend of no one." It is very hard to compare their sound to another group because of their unique style.

"This is why I want people from the AUC to get out and experience this," Jones said of the diverse turnout, a group with evident differences, yet share the love of rock. "I ask people have they been to rock shows and they say 'Never.' You go to the club and to the lounge while we're having shows all the time," said Jones.

The Maroon Tiger noticed that their fashion sense was not cohesive, yet it told a story. It represents collective individuality—every band member is his own man. Typically, members of bands have styles that correspond with one another or are styled as to visually translate their sound; this was not the case with The 54.

There was no collective coordination when trying to match clothes that fit the bands personality and this is because, as stated before, it is very hard to neatly categorize such a unique

sense of style. For this very reason, they performed in clothes that they would normally wear on an everyday basis.

For Mike (drummer), it was more artsy/earthy vibe; something that was comfortable, yet fashionable, which consisted of neutral colors. Walter (lead guitar) was ALL comfortable. His clothes were of a t-shirt and shorts, nothing more and nothing less. Enye (guitar and vocalist) was a more laid back individual but not too comfortable, a basic graphic tee and skinny jeans with his dreads not hidden or pulled back from the public. And finally, Mercury (Bass), gave his fans a sort of Hip-hop tease, with a red fitted cap, t-shirt, skinny jeans and what look to be Air Force One sneakers.

Jacklyn Williams, who has been the band's manager since early February 2008 and also a lifetime fan of rock and alternative music, said, "Working with the band has been great. There are so many things I want to happen so quickly because they're so talented." The attentive Williams caddied a pitcher of water to the stage as the band took their places after mingling with guests and grooving to the opening acts.

Under the rich, fluorescent passion red and gold stage lighting, The 54 shined. Their up tempo, provocative numbers left the crowd jumping, bobbing and swaying. While playing their rendition of Disney's "Aladdin" track, "Arabian Nights" compelled the audience to sing playfully along. The fact that they can not be compared to any other band is a very true statement due to the fact that no other band according to the audience could have such a melodic type of sound so hypnotizing to the ear. The Maroon Tiger bared witness to this as they performed. They gave a sort of sound as if the Rock and Roll heart had an R&B soul.

The energy was high and the mood was electric. A performance that proved true to the band's promise. And also one worthy of a second invitation to the East Atlanta Icehouse, where The 54 wooed another audience the following night.

Tim, topless vocalist of the incredible opening band Playground Rivals—draped in a calf length, fur coat said, "[The 54] has the energy to play in front of 50,000 people in stadiums across the nation." Playground Rivals are such fans of The 54, they insisted that The 54 headline Thursday's show.

To listen to a couple of The 54's tracks and check show dates, visit them on MySpace.com/the54.



The famed play is now showing in Atlanta

Image: Joan Marcus

JASON TERRY-ROBINSON

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The story of the lives of poor people, the colors that make up the French flag and the famous face of a motherless child can only mean that Victor Hugo's novel "Les Miserables" has returned to Atlanta as a new Theater of the Stars musical production.

On Sept. 19 at The Fabulous Fox Theatre, the production debuted the tale about a convict, Jean Valjean (played by Rob Evan), who couldn't seem to catch a break after being released from prison in 1815. A yellow piece of paper that informs the public that he is an ex-convict causes him to be refused service at every possible location.

He is then welcomed in the home of a local bishop, who inspires Valjean to do better with himself. Later on in life, Valjean is going by an unknown alias as the mayor of a town while hiding from his parole officer Javert (Robert Hunt), who is on the hunt to capture the fugitive. Valjean then happens upon a struggling woman by the name of Fantine.

Fantine is a down-and-out individual who is doing everything possible to help her ill-fated daughter, Cosette. Fantine is kicked out of the factory that she is working at and is doomed to prostitution. Cosette is a motherless child who is currently being raised by an innkeeper and his wife in the next town. Cosette is being mistreated by the couple by doing manual labor around the house while their daughter

Eponine and others watch in amusement.

This musical, which will be presented at the Fox through Sept. 28, is riveting and adventurous as Valjean searches for Cosette and makes it a point to take care of her and Fantine while also hiding from the authorities. This production of "Les Miserables" struck a surprising chord as the audience viewed Fantine, a main character for the first time being portrayed by Black actress Nikki Renee Daniels.

The second sense of amazement graced the faces of many as the directors used the props, display screens and curtains in intriguing ways. By shifting set pieces around the stage, they captured actions in motion such as the march throughout the town, the suicide

of one of the main characters by leaping off a bridge and the gunshots during the war scene.

"Les Miserables" takes a different view of French history by focusing on the lives of poor people and telling their stories in such a realistic way. The directors of the musical, Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil, take the audience's minds off of the royal life that is commonly told in history books.

From sickness to hunger, from drinking to prostitution, "Les Miserables" leaves nothing to the imagination. This is one of the best history lessons in a fictional novel to ever be told.

To find dates and times of "Les Miserables" performances, check out www.EncoreAtlanta.com or call Fox Theatre Group at 404-881-2000.

Nicholas Sparks Sits Down For Exclusive Interview With The Tiger

RANDOL DAVIS

*Associate News Editor
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Nicholas Sparks, New York Times bestselling author, and writer of the books-turned-films The Notebook, A Walk To Remember, and Message In A Bottle, sat down for an exclusive interview with The Maroon Tiger. The latest film adaptation of a Sparks novel, Nights In Rodanthe, comes out this Friday. Prior to the film's release, Sparks spoke with the Tiger about the film, his inspiration for his stories, and his career.

"I wrote my first book when I was 19 years old, I had no idea it would go this far," Sparks modestly stated. The Notebook, which Sparks claims to have written at a very young age, was his first published novel, and his big break for entering the writing world. "I had just injured myself, and I was pouting around my house, and my mom came into my room and said, 'why don't you write a book?' So...I did." The Notebook film has since gone on to be Spark's most popular adaptation, grossing over \$115 million dollars worldwide.

Despite the large amount of money his books and novels have made him, Sparks says that the satisfaction comes from the writing itself. "Yeah, I've made a fair amount of money, but

I'm doing what I love. If you're happy because you're pursuing your passion, then what's better than that?"

He has five children, a wife of 27 years, and millions of dollars, but was quick to clarify that the picture perfect image he gives off, is not as perfect as it may seem. "I've had four of my immediately family members die, a child diagnosed with Autism, and several major injuries; not to mention, the writing and publishing world has it's fair share of disappointments. So no, I promise you, my life's not perfect."

In continuance with how he views life, and how he creates storylines, Sparks also explained where his ideas come from. "I write dramatic fiction, and my inspiration has its roots in Greek Tragedies. I feed off of the stories by Sophocles and Euripides." Sparks went on to say that it's important to cover the wide range of feelings that humans can experience, "I try to convey the entire spectrum of human emotion, so that my books and films don't seem like they couldn't happen to they every day person...I like giving people hope."

On the eve of his new movie release, Sparks granted The Maroon Tiger a special press screening of Nights in Rodanthe, and answered questions about

the film and his inspiration for his stories. Nights In Rodanthe is a classic love story of a man in woman who fall in love over a period of a few days, and go on to "save each other." The tagline of the film, "It's never too late for a second chance," is indeed, quite fitting.

SPOILER ALERT! When asked why death always plays a central film in his movies (which it does in Nights In Rodanthe) Sparks responded, "I'm trying to make things as realistic as possible. You've got all these romance films and novels where things just seem too flawless. Life's not flawless, but it can be happy and fulfilling, and that's what I'm trying to show."

Sparks, who claims he often bases his books and characters after true stories and people he knows, admits that Nights In Rodanthe is the first book and film, that came completely from free thought. "I wanted to create a new and fresh story," Sparks stated. "I tend to write from my memory, but leaving that behind this time allowed me to have absolutely no boundaries." Sparks claims it only took him eleven weeks to write the book, and that while he doesn't have a favorite book out of the thirteen he has published, Nights In Rodanthe is definitely "high up on the list."

This being the fourth novel

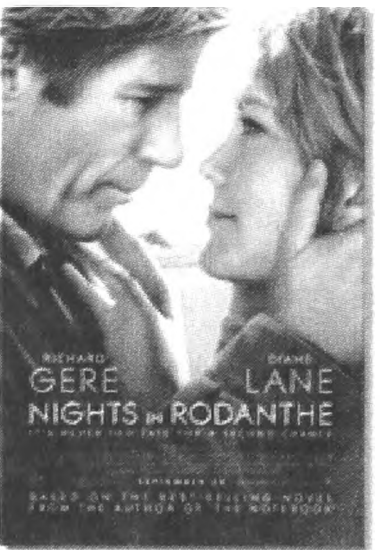


Image: Courtesy

he has sold to be adapted into a movie, Sparks has found himself well established in the world of screenplay writing, and thus, has little room for error. "I've done this a few times now, so I know which writers and directors I like and don't like. I definitely only sell my novels to the people I like." With Richard Gere and Diane Lane starring in his new movie, Sparks explained that he has never had a problem with the actors selected, and in fact thinks the two are perfect on screen together. "The just have such chemistry, I can't think of any two actors more perfect for these roles."

Nights In Rodanthe will be released in the United States this Friday, September 26.

Atlanta Hosts 2nd Annual International Black DocuFest

DAMIAN HILL

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The third weekend of September marked the second annual event for The International Black DocuFest (IBDF) at the High Museum in downtown Atlanta, GA. IBDF is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the art and education of people of African descent. Their mission is "to showcase the most innovative and compelling documentaries on the lives of people of Africa and its Diasporas."

Mayor Shirley Franklin opened the weekend event by praising the organization for its "commitment to empower and educate audience about the issues that impact the lives of people around the globe by [inspiring] citizens to become involved in our communities. She also highlighted the event by encouraging IBDF to continue "to spread their knowledge and inspire dialogue throughout our city."

Morehouse College was well represented by history professor, Mausiki Scales who expressed his views on a panel discussion for "Arts and Activism: Artists as Social Change Agents." This discussion focused on conversations with artists who incorporate messages of social change into their art forms.

The event also featured art

exhibits of famous Black artists ranging from Janice Fournillier, Ph. D to Shannon Mc Collum who has captured images of Outkast, Lil Jon, Dead Prez and many more giants in the music industry. Also, throughout the day, films were shown to raise awareness of the Black arts.

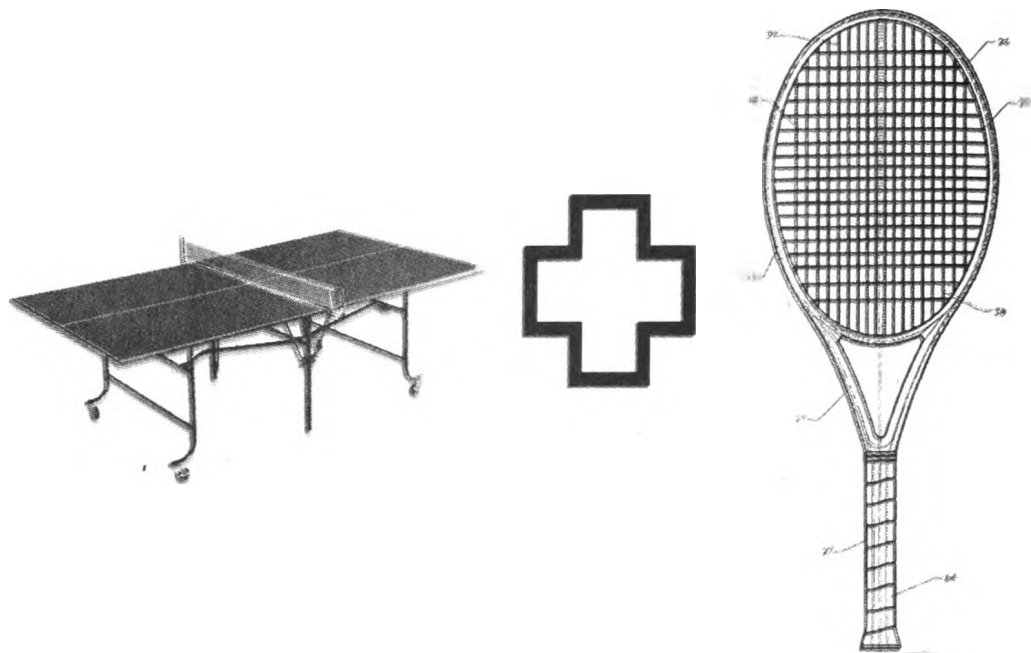
The film, "Power of Art: Women's Voices in Africa" (Country focus: various) by Claudine Pommier was shown at the festival and displayed the struggles of South African women who find it hard to expose their gifts of art in a male-driven society. However, in the end, many of these women are empowered to do greater work because of the constant rejection from galleries and men in their communities.

"Often time culture is destroyed by not having that freedom" Anika Madden, Co-Founder and Director of Communications of IBDF commented. Madden says this event has inspired audiences to deepen their education about African artistry and community involvement of the arts. "IBDF's ultimate goal is educational awareness because there is never too much."

People can join the IBDF for volunteer positions in areas of fundraising, event coordination and marketing. If interested, Madden can be contacted at Internationalblackdocufest.com for volunteer opportunities.

Sports

Table Tennis Club The Prodigal Coach Returns



Images: www.furnish.com; www.wikimedia.org; www.freepatentsonline.com;

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There are tons of clubs at Morehouse College, too many to name and choose from. For anyone that wants to try something "new," "fresh" and "exciting" there has been a table tennis club that just arrived last year that will change the way you look at clubs at Morehouse.

For those unfamiliar with this growing sport, table tennis is played on a hard table separated by a net. There are two to four players at a time and they hit a hollow ball back and forth until one of the players fail to return the ball. It's reminiscent of tennis in limited space.

The table tennis club brings a different aspect

to Morehouse recreational sports. It offers something different for people who don't want to just play football or basketball.

"Anyone looking for exercise, this would be great for you," club president Kenneth Scott said. "It's a good cardio workout, and it's also a good thing to do to broaden your horizons, you'll meet all different types of people."

For these same reasons Scott is now going into his third year as a table tennis player.

The Club has partnered up with a table tennis club at Coan Park in Atlanta and holds practice Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays in Archer Hall.

"They all work on the different aspects of the game, like rules, serves and

techniques, to gain more knowledge and skill of the game," the facility manager Irvin Seabrook said.

Last year was an exciting year for the table tennis team. They participated in Lennox Station Park District Tournament and a collegiate tournament participating fairly well in both tournaments. They have plans on participating in these tournaments again this year.

"On average there are seven or eight people here, were always looking for more to join," Seabrook said.

Anyone interested in joining the Table Tennis club should look forward to seeing flyers posted around the school. If you're really interested show up in Archer Hall with your paddle ready to go.



Famed coach Napoleon Cobb addresses the track team earlier this week.

Image: Matt Jones

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Napoleon B. Cobb coached All-Americans, Olympians along with several of the greatest runners that have graced the sport of track and field. Yet, amidst all the accolades and achievements, he still has a dream left unfulfilled.

For those who are unfamiliar with Cobb, he has dedicated 43 years to coaching track and field. He led the former Gordon High School to back-to-back championships in 1975 and 1976 with another championship in 1978. Cobb also became the first coach to have two high school students win Olympic medal.

Cobb came to Morehouse College in 1978 with the vision of a national championship in mind. The talent was in place, but the resources needed were significantly lacking.

"Back in the day, I was the coach and the trainer," Cobb said. "There was only one coach so if I wasn't available the track office was closed to athletes, recruiters and everyone else".

There was little to no administrative support and the athletic department suffered. Cobb produced a multitude of excellent runners yet did not have the foundation in place to achieve a national championship in his 10-year term.

After a 22 year absence, Coach Cobb has returned as the assistant coach of the track team.

"Morehouse has grown a lot since I've been gone," Cobb said. The athletic department has certainly flourished under the leadership of Athletic Director Andre' Pattillo and with the help of increased support from the administration.

The addition of another coach, particularly one of Coach Cobb's caliber, adds to a promising Morehouse track and field program.

"The biggest difference between this year and last year is having another great coach," Head Coach Willie Hill said. "He is a coach who understands Morehouse and understands young athletes."

Before Cobb's arrival, Hill was in a very similar situation to his

predecessor. He was the only coach and was responsible for training both the cross - country and track and field teams simultaneously.

The addition of an assistant coach takes a heavy load off Hill's shoulders and allows the team to get the focus they deserve.

"We're a better team," junior Dreyfus Clemons said. "Last year it was hard for Coach Hill to balance both teams but with Coach Cobb here now everyone gets the attention they need."

It seems that all the pieces are in place for a national championship. The foundation of a strong athletic department and administrative backing coupled with the raw talent of the team is giving the coaches and runners great hope.

"This is definitely a championship year," sophomore Omari Holtz said. Many cannot help but to agree.

"We don't get many second chances in life," Coach Cobb said. "But I got one. I got my second chance to help Morehouse get the national championship it deserves."

Promoting All Around Excellence



Image: Matt Jones

behind Benedict College, and number seven overall in the south region, despite beating them in the SIAC conference championship. Coach Hill still stays positive on his team's pursuit of excellence.

"As long as we get the opportunity to prove [the rating] different...Can we work hard enough to prepare to change that [rating]?"

Hill attributes the success of his program to discipline. "The biggest thing is commitment," Hill said. "Discipline not just with cross country, but in the classroom, on the track, and in life overall."

Coach Hill has a unique way of impacting his athletes, unlike other coaches. "He leads by example," senior Marquis Horn said. "Coach Hill has provided me with stability."

Coach Hill keeps his athletes disciplined by making sure they give their all on the track, as well as in the classroom.

"The track and field program is stable," Horn said. "It's a rock. I can go to Coach Hill for anything."

It is that stability, which has been created by Coach Hill, which makes the Morehouse Cross - Country team so successful.

The Morehouse Cross Country team still has major goals this season, but a national

championship is not the first. The most important goal is to be the best Man of Morehouse they can be.

"It all starts with Morehouse," Hill said. "They [the athletes] are the ones who make Morehouse great," Hill said.

Coach Hill is passionate when speaking of the team's representation of Morehouse. Hill says that he hopes the team can understand how important Morehouse is, and that as the cross country team, they represent the school and not just themselves. Hill also says that he aims to make sure that the team understands that they are representing Morehouse of the past, present and future.

This past weekend the team traveled to a meet in Huntsville, Alabama hosted by the University of Alabama at Huntsville. The team finished fifth overall behind Valdosta State University, Austin Peay State University, the University of Evansville and the University of Alabama at Huntsville.

Morehouse had two runners finish in the top fifteen individually. Juniors Noble Swint and Abraham Kiprotich finished in eleventh and twelfth place respectively. The team's next meet will be held in Atlanta this weekend as they host the Morehouse/Clark Invitational at Mosely Park. The meet begins at 9 a.m. on Sept 27.

Tigers Victorious

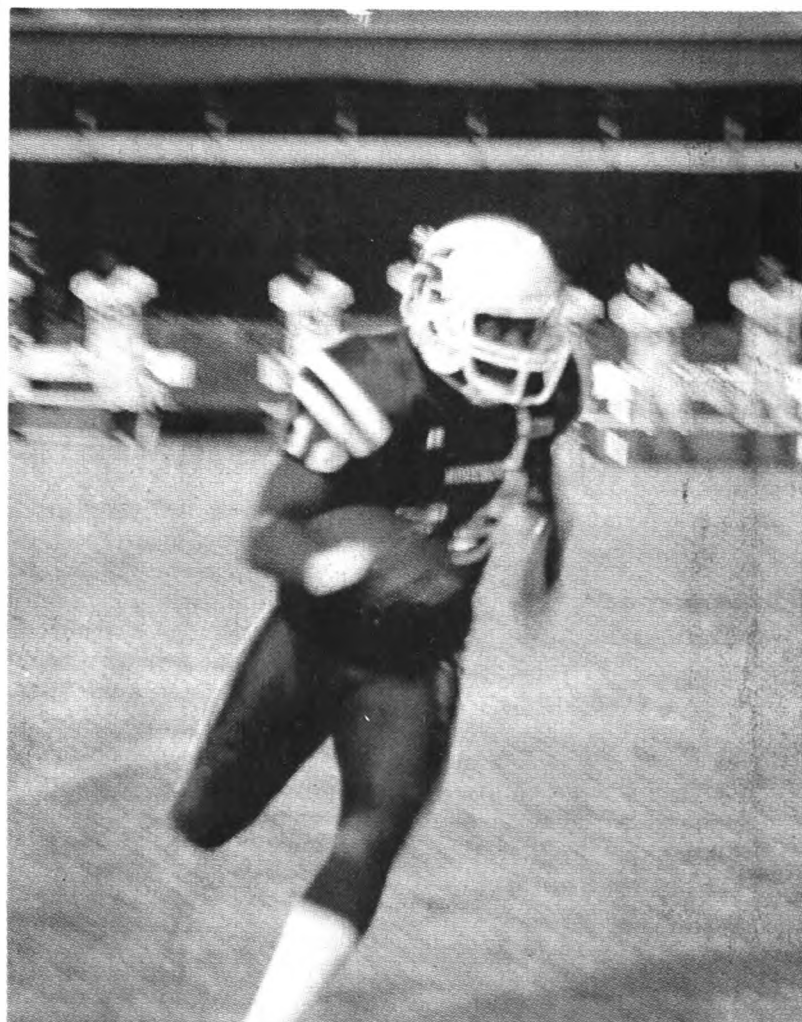


Image: Mark Williams

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better," Rooks said. "You can see the potential. The more time that we have, the better we will get."

The Maroon Tigers, collectively, look really good right now, but coach Freeman knows their next four games are going to be challenging.

"We are 3-1 right now, but it's going to be a tough stretch in the

coming weeks," Freeman said.

The Tigers face Prairie View A&M University in their next game and go on to face Tuskegee University, rival Clark Atlanta University and Albany State. These are all great football teams, but with the great start and tremendous talent on the Maroon Tigers, great expectations are rising among the students, faculty, fans and alumni.

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The Morehouse College Cross Country team can be described in one word: Excellent. The team has won 13 consecutive SIAC Championships and this season, is in serious contention for a Division II National Championship.

All of this success is indeed due to the athletes, but most importantly, to Coach Willie Hill. By promoting excellence, Coach Hill has made Morehouse's cross country team one of the best in the nation.

Although winning the SIAC Championship last season, Morehouse was ranked number two in the SIAC preseason polls